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Buffalo Belles Newsletters

The Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,  
Transgender Archives of Western New York

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7-1997

July 1997

Buffalo Belles

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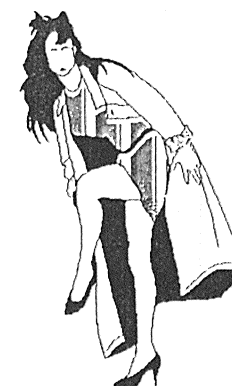
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# BUFFALO BELLES



Address Correspondence  
To  
Buffalo Belles  
P.O. Box 1701  
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

HOTLINE: (716) 643-2626

JULY 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

JEAN H.  
PATTI J.  
KATHY LORRAINE

Dear Sisters,

A nice turnout was had for the June meeting. Our streak of rainy, cool weather continued, unfortunately. Hopefully that one will be broken by the older running streak of gorgeous weather for the picnic in August. Then again, who will complain if it ends next meeting! Sure would be nice to be

able to get outside and enjoy our meeting place's lovely gardens and grounds.

Our meeting topic was about discussing various items. I'll try to give the best report I can about this, but I didn't arrive in time for the discussion session. I am relying upon what others have told me in giving this report.

The BIG topic was whether to "break" up the Belles. The answer given, was a vote acclimation NOT too. Nobody spoke in favor of the idea. A question was asked. "What exactly are the needs of the TS that require such special support?"

Certainly there are special concerns; such as hormones, electrolysis, legal, surgical, etc.

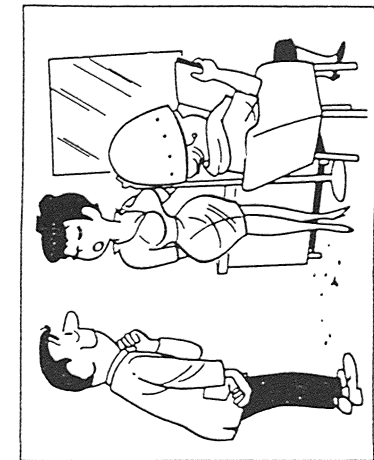
However, when a sister has reached this point in her life, she already has her support in place. She has been in this for awhile now. She has experienced all the feelings and had the problems that any CD faces. Most were/are married, have Children. Jobs. Mortgages, etc.

Then it was asked: "What are the special needs of the CD that requires such special support?" Why of course, Wifie, Kids, Job, etc. Sound familiar?

## ATTENDEES

JANICE G.	ALICIA &
PATTI J.	DOROTHY
HOLLY I.	CRYSTAL & TONYA
KATHY L.	SHARON F.
MICHELLE G.	CAROL S.
JOY S.	FRAN
ANGELLA A.	JEAN
CAMILLE H.	DINISE
SUSAN B.	





"You brought your wife's wig in? Of course we can style it. But why are you so nervous? Mr. Smith here wears his when he comes in."



"When I dress like a woman I drive like a woman"

P.S. MY VISA BILL JUST ARRIVED, WHERE'S THE NOVOCAIN WHEN I REALLY NEED IT?

EVEN IF MY LIPS DID GET AS BIG AS TEXAS.

I ENDED UP WITH 8 HOURS OF TREATMENT SO I'M HALF-WAY DONE. I GO BACK FOR THREE DAYS OF TREATMENT IN LATE JULY TO GET THE HAIRS THAT WERE NOT VISIBLE IN APRIL. NOW I ONLY SHAVE EVERY THIRD DAY, MY SKIN IS MUCH SMOOTHER AND SOFTER AND I QUIT USING DERMA-BLEND. IT REALLY WAS WORTH THE EFFORT AND MONEY, EVEN IF MY LIPS DID GET AS BIG AS TEXAS.

AT WORK MONDAY I NOTICE THE RESIDUAL SWELLING I STILL HAD. THE ONLY NOTICEABLE SIDE EFFECT WAS DEAD TISSUE FLAKING OFF MY CHIN THAT HAD STARTED DURING THE MIDDLE OF MY TREATMENT AND LASTED FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS. THERE WAS SOME REDNESS AROUND MY MOUTH AND NO MY NECK WHICH LOOKED LIKE A MILD SUNBURN. I ALSO HAD SOME TINGLING SENSATION ON MY NECK AND CHIN BUT IT WAS GONE.

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## AS BIG AS TEXAS BY PAULA ISON

IN 1994 A PRE-OP TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING TO DALLAS, TEXAS FOR HER ELECTROLOGY TREATMENTS AT A PLACE CALLED "ELECTROLOGY 2000" SO I ASKED HER WHY SHE WOULD GO THRU THE TIME AND EXPENSE OF FLYING TO TEXAS WHEN SHE COULD GET IT DONE LOCALLY.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL WEEKLY HOUR OF PAIN, THE DALLAS CLINIC HAS A DENTIST WHO INJECTS NOVOCAIN WHICH ELIMINATES ALL OF THE PAIN, ALLOWING TWO ELECTROLOGISTS TO WORK ON YOU AT THE SAME TIME, EIGHT HOURS A DAY FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN A ROW. SO SHE GOT FIFTY HOURS OF TREATMENT IN THE SAME WEEK. SHE ALSO SAID THAT THIS METHOD ELIMINATED ANY CHANCE OF BURNING OR SCARRING OF THE SKIN. SHE SAID AN "AVERAGE" BEARD REQUIRED 100 HOURS OF TREATMENT.

HER RESPONSE MADE SENSE BUT OVERALLLY THE COST WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION. SO I MADE A MENTAL NOTE THAT IF I EVER FOUND A FEW THOUSAND BUCKS IN MY CHRISTMAS PANTYHOSE I WOULD GIVE THE MATTER SOME MORE THOUGHT.

AS MY MATE SELF I DON'T GET A FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW LIKE SOME GUYS BUT I STILL HAVE TO SHAVE EVERY MORNING FOR WORK. WHEN I WANT TO SPEND A FULL DAY AS PAULA I MUST SHAVE IN THE MORNING AND THEN AGAIN IN THE LATE AFTERNOON SO I DON'T TURN INTO A PUMPKIN BEFORE MIDNIGHT. AS I WENT OUT EN FEMME MORE AND MORE, IT GOT TO BE REALLY ANNOYING SHAVING TWICE A DAY JUST TO STAY OUT FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT TIME. SO EVERYTIME I APPLIED MY DERMA-BLEND BEARD COVER I THOUGHT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO RID MYSELF OF THIS PROBLEM FOREVER.

DESPITE STILL NOT HAVING THE MONEY, MY SPOUSE AND I DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE THEORY THAT THE SOONER I HAVE IT DONE, THE SOONER I CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS. SO LAST NOVEMBER I CALLED ELECTROLOGY 2000, HAD THEM SEND ME SOME LITERATURE, CHECKED THEIR REFERENCES AND MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR MY FIRST TREATMENT WHICH WAS TO BE FOR APRIL 23-26.

A NON-REFUNDABLE \$800 DEPOSIT WAS NEEDED WHICH I MADE OVER THE PHONE WITH A CREDIT CARD. THE HOURLY RATE WAS \$88 PER TECHNICIAN WHICH INCLUDED THE SERVICES OF THE DENTIST-OWNER, A PRE-OP NAMED BREN PIRONIO.

BY MAKING PLANE RESERVATIONS IN DECEMBER, THE DELTA ROUND-TRIP WAS ONLY \$224. ON THE CLINICS RECOMMENDATION I STAYED AT A MOTEL 6 WHICH NEAR THE CLINIC. THE AIRPORT SHUTTLE WAS \$12 EACH WAY.

WHEN I GOT TO DALLAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I NOTICED WAS THAT THINGS ARE REALLY BIG IN TEXAS. THE AIRPORT IS TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF CINCINNATI'S AND THE MOTEL ROOM WAS GIGANTIC FOR A MOTEL 6.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 23RD, BREN MET ME AT THE MOTEL AND TOOK ME TO THE CLINIC. I FILLED OUT A FEW FORMS AND MET THE TECHNICIANS, CARRI AND ROXANE, WHO WOULD WORK ON ME EVERY DAY. THEY WERE REALLY NICE GIRLS, AS WERE THE OTHER TECHNICIANS, DANA AND CHRISTIE.

BREN DECLARED MY THREE DAY GROWTH TO BE AN AVERAGE BEARD AND SHE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD DO MY UPPER LIP FIRST SINCE IT SWELLS UP THE MOST AND NEEDS THE MOST TIME TO REDECE. SHE THEN INJECTED NOVOCAIN ON EACH SIDE OF MY UPPER LIP AND THE CARRI AND ROXANE STARTED THE ELECTROLYSIS.

SINCE NOVOCAIN ELIMINATED ALL THE PAIN, THE TECHNICIANS WERE ABLE TO INJECT STRONGER THAN NORMAL ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO KILL FOREVER THE ROOTS OF ALL VISIBLE HAIR ON THE FIRST TRY, WITHOUT BURNING THE SKIN. THE ONLY THING THEY CAN'T DO IS KILL ROOTS OF HAIR THAT HAS NOT YET BROKEN THRU THE SURFACE OF THE SKIN.

WITHOUT NOVOCAIN THE PAIN CAN BE INTENSE, ESPECIALLY IN SENSITIVE AREAS LIKE THE UPPER LIP AND CHIN. WITH NOVOCAIN THERE WAS NO PAIN AT ALL - NONE. UNTIL NOW I HAD HAD ONLY ONE HOUR OF TRADITIONAL ELECTROLOGY AND THE PAIN WAS SO EXCRUCIATING I WANTED TO STRANGLE THE TECHNICIAN.

THE NOVOCAIN TOOK AFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND THE GIRLS WORKED ON ME UNTIL NOON WHEN WE STOPPED FOR LUNCH. WHEN LOOKING IN A MIRROR I WAS EXCITED TO SEE THAT MOST OF MY UPPER LIP WAS COMPLETELY VOID OF ANY HAIR AND WAS SMOOTH AND SOFT. I NOTED SOME MINOR SWELLING OF MY UPPER LIP AND PASSED IT OFF AS A MINOR NUISANCE.

SITTING IN A DENTAL CHAIR IS USUALLY NOT MUCH FUN BUT THE TIME PASSED QUICKLY AS I WAS ABLE TO OCCASIONALLY TALK TO THE GIRLS AND THEY HAD A TELEVISION SET AND A RADIO AND THE PATIENT GETS TO PICK THE SHOW OR THE MUSIC.

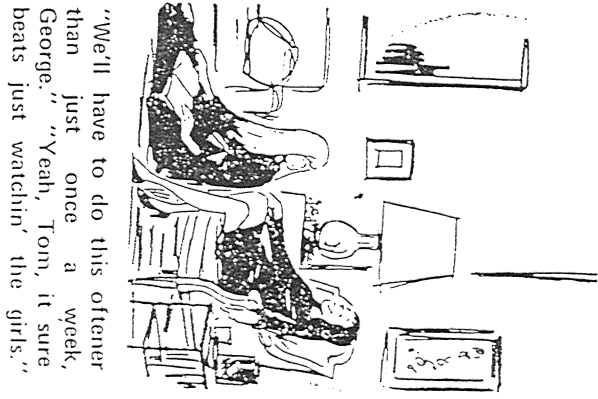
BREN CAME IN HOURLY TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING AND TO GIVE MORE NOVOCAIN WHEN THE GIRLS MOVED TO OTHER PARTS OF MY FACE. AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY THEY HAD DONE ALL OF MY UPPER LIP, A LITTLE OF MY CHIN AND SOME OF MY CHEEKS.

LOOKING IN THE MIRROR AS WE FINISHED I THOUGHT IT HAD GONE WELL FOR THE FIRST DAY, ALTHOUGH I NOTICED THAT MY UPPER LIP HAD SWELLED MORE NOTICEABLY. BREN TOLD ME IN ADVANCE THAT MOST CLIENTS SWELL REALLY BAD ON THE FIRST DAY BUT BY USING LOTS OF ICE PACKS AT THE MOTEL, THE SWELLING CAN BE CONTROLLED. SHE SUGGESTED SITTING UP IN BED FOR AS LONG AS I COULD SINCE ANY ELEVATION REDUCES SWELLING. I ATE DINNER AT A PLACE NEXT TO THE MOTEL AND THEN DILIGENTLY APPLIED ICE PACK AFTER ICE PACK AS I SAT UP IN BED, FALLING ASLEEP WITH AN ICE PACK ON MY FACE.

FIRST THING THE NEXT MORNING I CHECKED MYSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR TO SEE HOW THE SWELLING WAS. IT WAS REALLY BAD, MUCH WORSE THAN THE NIGHT BEFORE, ALMOST AS IF THE ICE HAD NO IMPACT AT ALL. I JUST LAUGHED AND MARVELED AT MY GOOFY LOOKS AND PATCHWORK BEARD.

THURSDAY MORNING BREN MET ME AND ANOTHER CLIENT WHO HAD JUST FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK FOR HER SECOND TREATMENT. THE OTHER CLIENT, JEAN WAS BLESSED WITH A VERY LIGHT BEARD, WAS FIVE INCHES SHORTER, WEIGHED TWENTY POUNDS LESS AND WAS TWO DRESS SIZES SMALLER THAN ME SO I HATED HER IMMEDIATELY. JEAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE LIKELY ONLY NEEDED ONE DAY OF TREATMENT THIS TIME BUT WOULD STAY THRU SUNDAY MORNING TO GET A REDUCED AIR FAIR.





Come for the Beauty, leave with Something of Value

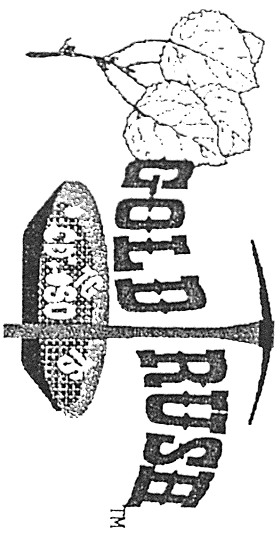
or E-mail to: [GICoCoColo@AOL.com](mailto:GICoCoColo@AOL.com)

(303) 443-6409

Stapleton Plaza Hotel, Denver, Colorado

September 24-28, 1997

Keynote by Les Feinberg



All Gender Outlaws & Transgender Warriors to attend the

WANTED

D-6304-NC noxix Melissa

"Let us be the first to let you know that we are not just a group of people, we are a community."

Abraham Lincoln - New York City - February 21, 1859

On Sunday evening, February 23, 1997, 20 transgendered persons gathered in the meeting room of the Quality Inn in College Park, Maryland to begin what was to be a very busy, tiring, and exhilarating two days of visiting our Senators and Representatives to encourage them to include Transgendered Persons in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Of the twenty gathered together Sunday evening, nine were men and eleven were women. We divided into six teams, received our assignments, and began our work.

We consisted of encouraging the Senator to continue to support ENDA with Transgendered included but to ascertain where the Senator stood as far as Transgendered persons were concerned. It didn't really come as a surprise to my team that the Senators didn't understand the difference between Gay, Lesbian and Transgendered. In speaking to their staff member that was responsible for ENDA, each one was unaware that we were not included because they assumed that we were Gay or Lesbian. This was the perfect stepping stone to explain the differences and educate them about us.

If you think transgender inclusion in ENDA doesn't concern you, that ENDA is only for transsexuals, think again. If passed, the legislation will also cover YOU, the heterosexual crossdresser. For example:

- If you're afraid of your boss finding out you attended a Tri-Ess meeting, ENDA will protect you from being fired just for being a crossdresser.
- If you're afraid that Deputy Barney Fife will tell your boss that you were wearing a dress when he gave you a traffic ticket, ENDA will protect your job.
- If you've ever been called in for emergency weekend work, and discovered traces of fingernail polish after you got there, don't worry. ENDA's provisions will protect you from employment discrimination.

"The Twenty" were just the reconnaissance force to seek out any areas that need to be addressed in May when Gender PAC sponsors the 4th National Transgender Event in Washington, DC (page 37 of Volume 21 Issue 4 of the *Femme Mirror*). Each of you needs to make a very serious effort to attend this event to let our Senators and US Representatives see that we are serious about gaining the basic human rights that they take for granted.

For those of you who cannot attend in May, you need to start giving your financial support. Several of "The Twenty" are in transition and the transportation, room and meals was a major financial burden. They had scraped together every spare penny they could find to attend in February. I know of one who had planned to sleep on the floor because her budget couldn't be stretched to cover a room. These people are working for you! These people are making sacrifices beyond your comprehension. It is too much to ask that you commit to a \$10 per month contribution to support organizations such as ICTLEP.

## NEW Book Announcement

### The Bliss of Becoming One

Integrating "Feminine" Feelings Into the Male Psyche  
Mainstreaming the Gender Community

by Rachel Miller

Author Gives Hope, Encouragement and Direction to Transvestite Members of the Gender Community

Rachel Miller (California) is the author of the recently published *The Bliss of Becoming One* (115 pages, trade softcover, questionnaires, gender-community resources, bibliography, retail price \$12.95).

#### About the Book

*The Bliss of Becoming One* is a guide for members of the gender community, their friends and family, and those interested in understanding transvestism and gender issues. Author Rachel Miller describes a shared vision of an open society and steps that can be taken to turn that vision into reality. In this challenging new book, the author dispels myths surrounding transvestites, encourages transvestites to integrate their feminine and masculine traits, advocates transvestites' joining mainstream society, and promotes emotional health, wholeness and unity for transvestites. Transvestite readers will learn to understand themselves better, accept what they find, share what they learn with loved ones, and help others in the gender community — all through application of the Golden Rule.

- Included in *The Bliss of Becoming One*:
- Why read this book: What's in it for you
- Embracing the premise of an open society
- Defining your personal style
- Overcoming the internalized excuses which prevent change
- Countering religious (and other) objections to transvestism
- Understanding the roles of sexuality and emotions
- How to begin to effect a change in current thought through acceptance of yourself, sharing your secret with loved ones, helping others share the vision, and educating the public about the truth of transvestism.

#### About the Author

Rachel Miller is a heterosexual, married man with a high-paying job in a prestigious company. In every way, he is a respected member of the community. You would never guess that he is a transvestite. He hid that fact due to shame and fear of rejection. In desperation, Rachel began a quest for relief that both led to the discovery of the truth about himself and other transvestites and resulted in his writing *The Bliss of Becoming One*.

#### What the Author Says

"Unless you live alone in a cave," Miller explains, "one of your closest friends is a transvestite who is dying inside because he can't tell you. Society tells such men that there is something wrong with them. Therefore, they suppress their true selves and live in anguish and isolation."

"The sum of all 'valid' reasons society uses for discriminating against transvestites would fit comfortably in a thimble," Miller continues. "We don't have to stay in those constricting closets any longer. The good news is that, for the most part, the perceptions of transvestites are wrong — and they can be fixed. This book will show how to fix them."

#### How to Order the Book from IFGE

*The Bliss of Becoming One* can be ordered by calling (617) 899-2212. Visa/MasterCard accepted, or by sending a check or money order (made out to IFGE) for \$15.95 (\$12.95 + \$3 shipping and handling) to:

IFGE  
The Bliss of Becoming One!  
P. O. Box 229  
Waltham, MA 02254-0229

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)

P. O. Box 229  
Waltham, MA 02254-0229  
Phone: (617) 899-2212  
E-mail: [IFGE@worldsid.com](mailto:IFGE@worldsid.com)

NEW YORK SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, Democrat  
202/224-6542 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME.

Our team visited Ms. Marcia S. Lee who was most courteous. As the meeting progressed, she educating was obvious as she began to understand what our problems are. Locals can do a lot to shore this one up with education and visits when Senator is home State during recess. Therefore, your job is — not only but especially, if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Senator with attention to Ms. Lee to inform them of specific employment discrimination that you have faced or fear as a transgendered person.

NEW YORK SENATOR ALFONSE M. D'AMATO, Republican.

202/224-6542 or 800/972-3524, VOTED ENDA YES LAST TIME. This office was too busy for our team to meet with anyone for the two days but a conversation did take place with staffer Bob Gabriel. He asked that our paperwork be left at front desk for his later review. He stated that he was not aware that transgressors were omitted from last ENDA. He said he was not sure if Senator would support a lg-inclusive ENDA because Senator does not really know our people. This is the only potential red flag so far and can be easily cured with education and face to face meetings by constituents. Folks who live in New York State must get active to keep this a yes vote and to insure that it is transgender inclusive. Therefore, your job is — but only if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Senator with attention to Mr. Gabriel to inform them that you are from their state, that you are transgender, and a brief synopsis of your employment difficulties or fears of same.

NEW YORK (Rochester) REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Democrat.

202/225-3615 or 800/972-3524, SPONSORED ENDA LAST TIME IN HOUSE. He indicated that our team had time remaining from its Senate visits and met with Stuart Spencer. He was very informative and had lots of his Representative would probably be transgender inclusive. He was very informative and had lots of tactical ideas to share. Therefore, your job is — but only if you live in New York State — to write a simple and courteous one page letter to the Representative with attention to Mr. Spencer to inform them that you are from their state, that you are transgender, and a brief synopsis of your employment difficulties or fears of same.

A courteous, short, follow-up phone call would help and an appointment to meet your Senator when the Senator is home in your state would be outstanding. *THERE NEEDS TO BE FACES AND STORIES FROM CONSTITUENTS FOR THEM TO LATCH ONTO.*

I know that everyone who is reading this is not in a position to do either of these. However, in every chapter there is at least one sister who is out to her employer, neighbors, etc., who better to make an appointment for a short visit. It certainly would not hurt if some of the wives would call and/or visit. Your Senator and/or Representative has no reason to "out" you, this is not a promise that it would not happen, but making enemies of voters is not the business of a politician.

The full list of all Senators who voted YES for ENDA in 1996 and the full list for Representatives who Sponsored ENDA in 1996 can be found on the ICTLEP WEB Page [www.abmail.com/ictlep](http://www.abmail.com/ictlep) or if you are on AOL use the KeyWord ICTLEP. Look them up and get in touch with yours if present and talk with him or her about the need to include transgressors in ENDA.

I am well aware that the vast majority of you will give a stifled yawn to this article as well as my other articles on why you need to get involved to fight for basic human rights for all transgendered persons. How many acts of discrimination, harassment, beatings and, yes deaths does it take to make you realize that "Things are not what they seem"? The county that I live in just decided to refuse funding for any group that doesn't fall in line with their concept of "family values". It was started because the religious right was against a Pulitzer Prize winning play about a young gay man with AIDS. Today a play, tomorrow will we ALL be driven back into our closets? "Things are not what they seem."

Finally, to those of you who will sit around your support group meetings and say that we are wasting out time, etc., I'd like to quote you an ancient Chinese proverb. "To those who say something cannot be done, you need to get out of the way of those that are doing it."

## A cartoon illustration of a man and a woman in a store. The man is holding a large stack of boxes, and the woman is holding a small box. A sign on the floor says "Sale".



# Estate of transsexual with AIDS awarded \$30,000 in prison suit

By DAN HERBECK

News Staff Reporter

A federal jury awarded \$30,000 to the estate of Dana K. DeVilla, a transsexual convict who died of AIDS in Albion State Correctional Facility.

After an unusual trial in which lawyers used a deposition from Ms. DeVilla to help her speak to jurors after her death, the jury found that former women's prison Superintendent Sunny Schriver failed to train her employees properly on the handling of inmates with AIDS.

"I was treated rottenly," Ms. DeVilla said in a transcript read into the court record. "Because I had AIDS, I was to be exploited and made to live like I was a freak." Ms. DeVilla, who died in 1995 at age 36, claimed she was abused and mistreated in the prison, located in Orleans County. The prison has since been the target of numerous other allegations of mistreatment, raised by Amy Fisher and other inmates.

"We're very gratified," said James Ostrowski, who represented Ms. DeVilla's estate with co-counsel Salvatore P. Abbate. "The jury spent a lot of time deliberating this case, and they came to the conclusion that they believed Dana's story. I think Dana would feel she was vindicated."

Assistant State Attorney General Joseph F. Reina said Thursday he is planning to appeal the verdict.

"We feel the verdict goes against the weight of the evidence," Reina said.

Ms. DeVilla claimed prison officials held her up to ridicule by illegally circulating the word that she had AIDS and had undergone sex-change surgeries. Ostrowski read jurors a 200-page transcript from a deposition she gave years ago.

Ms. DeVilla described how she was born as a male in the Bronx and named Kevin Otis. She said she grew up in Westchester County, had a series of sex-change operations in the 1980s. She told how she later moved into a life of crime, passing bad checks and at various times using almost 20 aliases, male and female.

Abbate told jurors that, under state law, prison health officials could not tell anyone — including other prison employees — about Ms. DeVilla's illness.

Hi, just want to see you  
us Alone! 6/9/97

ASK ANN

## He won't change, she won't leave

Dear Ann Landers: I am a frustrated woman who is married to a cross-dresser. I have read your columns saying some wives and girlfriends enjoy their cross-dressing sweethearts and husbands and promote their "hobby." This certainly is not the case in our house.

For the past several years, I suspected my husband was wearing my clothes. I have had to discard many items that were stretched out of shape or torn. When I couldn't find a bra or a blouse, I knew that "Don" had acquired it.

Our home life is miserable. Don's mother still continues to manipulate him even after all these years. He has never been able to stand up for himself, which infuriates me and has caused some hot arguments. Counselors have suggested I leave him or "take him as he is" because he will never change. We've been married for 25 years, and I don't want a divorce, nor do I want to damage Don's image. His friends and family members hold him in high regard, and the people he works with think he is wonderful.

My woman friends are under the impression that we have the perfect marriage. I don't know what to do, Ann. Our family life is terrible, and I cry a lot.

— Lonely in the Metropole

Dear Metropole: There is no way I can help a woman who tells me her home life is miserable, she is frustrated and unhappy and cries a lot, but she does not want a divorce.

You say counselors have suggested that you accept Don as he is or leave him, but you don't want to do either one. It appears to me that you are going to be miserable either way. Your best bet is to develop some outside interests, stay in therapy, put a lock on your closet door and keep your underwear where Don can't find it.

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO WEAR A PRETTY DRESS?

What would it be like to sit while I pee?  
To put ribbons in my hair, without mommy scolding me!  
I'm going to have to hide, I guess.  
What would it be like to wear a pretty dress?

What would it be like to have a doll of my own?  
You know, someone to hug when you feel all alone!  
Dad keeps saying to me "You're different than the rest".  
But he doesn't know how I look in a dress!

Why can't I play with the girls at school?  
Hopscotch and jump-rope seem really cool!  
The boys are too rough, and everything is a test.  
I wouldn't want them to see me in a dress!

What would it be like to kiss a boy?  
To have him call me on the phone, after he walked me home.  
Coach says I should play football, a game I detest!  
He's trying to stop me from wearing a dress.

What would it be like to make love to a man?  
To feel the strength of his arms, and the softness of his hands!  
But my marriage is really the best.  
She doesn't even mind my wearing a dress!

What would it be like to give birth to a child?  
To feel her inside you, while you wait for her smile.  
Since the kids have been born, our life has been full of duress.  
She doesn't want them to see me in a dress!

Forty years have gone by and I'm still waiting to live.  
My thoughts and feelings are mixed, something has to give!  
There is no one left to impress.  
I spend a lot of time in public wearing a dress.

I'm desperate now, and my back's to the wall.  
I feel like a woman, but I'm so damn tall!  
The only way to get out of this mess.  
Is to change my body to fit this pretty dress!

Charlegne Millet